

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SSM-03 DHA-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 COME-00 EB-07
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R 051434Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6015
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
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AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IS
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH DMC LEADER DAVID GOLOMB

1. POLITICAL OFFICER SAW DAVID GOLOMB MAY 3 TO DISCUSS THE DMC'S CAMPAIGN. GOLOMB IS THE SON OF THE LATE ELIYAHU GOLOMB, ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF THE HAGANAH. HE SERVED FOR A YEAR IN THE SIXTH KNESSET AS A LABOR MK, SUCCEEDING ANOTHER MK WHO RESIGNED. SWITCHING TO THE DMC LAST JANUARY WITH MEIR AMIT AND OTHERS, HE IS NOW NUMBER ELEVEN ON THE DMC LIST.
2. GOLOMB CONSIDERS THE COMING ELECTION TO BE UNPREDICTABLE. HE ESTIMATED THAT THE DMC WOULD WIN ANYTHING FROM 10-20 SEATS, BUT DECLINED TO BE MORE PRECISE. THE DMC RESULT WOULD BE THE KEY VARIABLE BECAUSE THE TOTALS FOR THE ALIGNMENT AND THE LIKUD WOULD DEPEND DIRECTLY ON THE DMC RESULT.

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3. GOLOMB THOUGHT THAT CALLING EARLY ELECTIONS HAD HURT THE DMC. THE PARTY COULD HAVE USED THE EXTRA FIVE AND ONE-HALF MONTHS THAT A FULL TERM FOR THE EIGHTH KNESSET WOULD HAVE GIVEN IT. THEY ARE DOING WELL IN THE CITIES BUT THE PARTY DID NOT HAVE THE TIME TO ORGANIZE CADRES IN THE SMALL TOWNS. CONSEQUENTLY, THE LEADERS HAVE PARTICULARLY HEAVY

SPEAKING SCHEDULES TO MAKE UP FOR THE LACK OF GRASS-ROOTS ORGANIZATION.

4. GOLOMB DID NOT THINK YADIN HAD BEEN HURT BY THE HAOLOM HAZE CHARGES OF WRONG-DOING. HE HAS BEEN CLEARED BY THE GOVERNMENT PROSECUTOR, AND THE DMC'S CONSTITUTENCY--GENERALLY THE BETTER EDUCATED ELEMENTS--READ BEYOND THE HEADLINES AND KNOW THAT THE ACCUSATIONS HAD NO SUBSTANCE. NOR DID HE THINK THAT THE ABSENCE OF ORIENTAL JEWS IN SAFE POSITIONS ON THE DMC LIST HURT THE PARTY. HE NOTED THAT ODED, A SOCIAL ACTION GROUP OF NORTH AFRICAN IMMIGRANTS, IS UNFLAGGING IN ITS SUPPORT OF THE DMC. IT HAD JOINED YADIN AT AN EARLY DATE, HESITATED FOR TWO DAYS FOLLOWING THE MARCH 15 INTERNAL ELECTION FOR PLACES ON THE LIST, AND THEN, DESPITE ITS DISAPPOINTMENT WITH ITS POOR REPRESENTATION ON THE LIST, RESUMED ITS ACTIVITY ON BEHALF OF THE DMC.

5. THE DMC HAS SEVEN CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATING IN A COALITION GOVERNMENT. GOLOMB INSISTS THEY ARE NOT SUBJECT TO COMPROMISE.

(A) REORGANIZATION OF THE GOVERNMENT;
(B) A PLANNED ECONOMIC POLICY TO INCLUDE CUTTING THE BUDGET AND REDUCING INFLATION TO 15 PERCENT;
(C) DECISIVE ACTION IN LABOR RELATIONS;
(D) A SOCIAL POLICY TO EQUALIZE DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH;
(E) RESTRICTIONS ON PARTY ACTIVITY;
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(F) DEFENSE AND FOREIGN POLICIES WHICH WILL NOT CONTRADICT THE DMC'S PLATFORM; AND
(G) ELECTORAL REFORM.

GOLOMB THOUGHT THAT THE ALIGNMENT AND THE LIKUD WOULD FIND IT EQUALLY DIFFICULT TO FORM A COALITION WITH THE DMC; THE ALIGNMENT WOULD HAVE TROUBLE ACCEPTING CONDITION (E) AND THE LIKUD WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY WITH (F). QUERIED REGARDING SPECULATION THAT THE LIKUD MIGHT OFFER YADIN THE PREMIERSHIP TO ENTICE THE DMC INTO A COALITION, GOLOMB SAID THAT REGARDLESS OF HOW MUCH YADIN HIMSELF MIGHT BE TEMPTED, THE DECISION WOULD REST WITH THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

6. GOLOMB STRESSED THAT IN OR OUT OF THE NEXT GOVERNMENT, THE DMC IS HERE TO STAY. HE SAID THAT THE RESPONSE IN EVERY HUG BAYIT (LITERALLY HOME CIRCLE--A SMALL GATHERING WHERE MUCH OF THE CAMPAIGNING IS DONE) IS VERY GOOD. THE DMC WILL STRIKE ROOTS

AND CONTINUE TO WORK FOR THE REFORMS ISRAEL NEEDS.

7. COMMENT: WE HAVE NOTICED THAT RECENT DMC ADS
SOFT PEDAL YADIN IN CONTRAST TO THE HEAVY PLAY GIVEN
PERES AND BEGIN IN ALIGNMENT AND LIKUD CAMPAIGNING,
RESPECTIVELY. IN GENERAL, THERE IS NOW LESS TALK
OF YADIN AS PRIME MINISTER AS POLLS SHOW THE DMC
DECLINING FROM ITS WINTER PEAK. NONTHELESS, IT
COULD STILL EMERGE AS VITAL TO ANY COALITION.
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